

Group Home Task Force Meeting
Thursday, June 26, 2008
Notes

ATTENDEES

Task Force Members:

Kathleen Gardiner-Aaron
Sheryl Brissett-Chapman
Brenda Donald
Tim Griffith
Cheri Gerard

Frank Kros
Stephen Lafferty
Steven Sorin
Shelley Tinney
Al Zachik (for Barbara DiPietro)

Guests:

Carmen Brown, DHR
Erin Earp, DHR
Robin Elliott, MACS
Mark Grover, Maryland Sheriff's Youth Ranch
Jodi King, MSDE
Barb Super, Sheppard Pratt Health System

Mark Luckner, Governor's Office
Steve McCulloch, DLS
Nick Moroney, OAG/JJMU
Arianne Wang, MDLC

Welcome – Secretary Donald

1) Review and Approval of February 4, 2008 meeting minutes

Kathleen Gardiner-Aaron recommend to the next to last sentence under "New Legislation" from "this bill" to "these bills". Minutes approved with change.

2) Review of 2008 Legislation

a) Statement of Need (782)

Sec Donald said RDLC will be charged with the writing of the regulations. They need to provide timeline by next meeting.

b) Bill of Rights (SB742)

Requires the providers to post residents' bill of rights spelled out in legislation. Most of what is required is already in regulations. The Task Force wants a uniform document, something like a poster. **Sec. DeVore** will be the point person for a workgroup that will be put together to draft the document. Sec. Donald would like **Jessica Rae** from the Legal Aid Bureau and a group of youth to be involved. **Jim McComb** has also offered to assist. Providers will have to develop handbook to be approved by licensing. **Del Lafferty**

suggested there will need to be some uniform components; the regulations would address this.

Kathleen Gardiner-Aaron asked which group will address the issue of right to appropriate education- homework assistance, summer enrichment as these things are not already addressed in regulations. **Sec Donald** said that would be addressed in the handbook. **Carmen Brown** explained that some would be on a case by case basis and supported by client records – these things are addressed in policy and procedures. **Sec Donald** said this may also need to be revisited by the regulations workgroup

c) Certification of Child Care Workers(783)

Al Zachik reported that the Board for the Certification of Program Administrators has already begun to work on the plan and regulations for implementation. The Board will supply a status report by the next meeting

3) Unfinished Task Force Business

a)Report Cards – This bill was pulled back, it needed more discussion and refinement. The draft was distributed at an earlier meeting contained some regulatory and contractual requirements. **Carmen Brown** has done some research on other states that have report cards and she reports most states only have a few measures. There are report cards for nursing homes in the works for DHMH. The Governor's office is working with Wendy Kronmiller. Someone from DHMH will report on this next meeting . **Sec Donald** stated that DC has a report card – we might look at that. **Mark Grover** asked if the report card would be tied to CSOMS. **Carmen Brown** said we might take some of those measures. **Sheryl Brissett-Chapman** stated that it would be interesting to see how levels of intensity might be tied into this. **Frank Kros** asked about an appeal process. **Sec Donald** said this all to be developed. **Sheryl Brissett-Chapman** talked about no reject no eject as it related to measuring outcomes to avoid having programs that would not take harder to serve kids. **Sec Donald** suggested reporting things that are already required in regulations at first and then work toward outcomes. The following individuals volunteered for the workgroup – Sheryl Chapman, Carmen Brown, Frank Kros, Mark Grover, Mark Luckner, Kevin Drumheller (Mosaic). We will also need representatives from local DSS, OHCQ, DJS, MSDE and youth.

b) Licensing Issues (renewals, revocations) Statement of needs bill does not address these and **Sen. Zirkin** wants more work done on how performance would affect these issues. **Sheryl**

Brissett-Chapman asked if strategic state plans might affect renewals, **Sec Donald** replied yes. **Sheryl** said she would like to see a more strategic planning around need. **Carmen Brown** indicated that all the local departments of social services are assessing needs that will specify kinds of kids to be served and types of services needed.

Sec Donald stated that DHR has started looking at counties in depth; particularly Prince Georges. Some data could be presented at next meeting DHR is planning a facilitated work session on needs and retooling with providers perhaps in September. **Sheryl** this can be helpful for providers retool to meet needs need to look at evolving trends. **Al Zachik** stated that a report on out of state placement is ready to be presented to the Children's Cabinet Tim mentioned that his group had recommended standardized assessment tools. He knows that group Homes will use the CANS but DSS and DJS do not. Transformations is providing assistance to use CANS to determine level of care

Mark Grover talked about how the outcomes system is not able to share info from home to home. He also thinks DSS workers should do CANS to avoid bias. **Sheryl** talked about how there is not agreement among stakeholders as what the data being collected means.

- c) **Tim Griffith** asked about the issue of access to education as mandated in the task force legislation. **Sec Donald** responded that should be discussed when Sec. DeVore is present as that is more of a DJS issue.

4) New Business

Sheryl asked if there could be a discussion about Jim McComb's resignation from the Task Force. **Sec. Donald** responded that would be more appropriately discussed when Sen. Zirkin, as chair, is in attendance.

Adjournment